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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 05294 191408Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------092784 191410Z /44
O R 191325191326Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7272
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

S E C R E T BELGRADE 5294

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES VEST AND MAYNES FROM AMBASSADOR

BUCHREST FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, YO
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO YUGOSLAV CHAIRMAN OF BELGRADE
NAM MEETING

REF: A) STATE 181903, B) BELGRADE 5275

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM PARA 2 OF MY CABLE THAT
WE ARE NOT UNAWARE OF THE RISK THAT CONCERNS YOU. IT
WAS MY JUDGMENT -- PERHAPS INNOCENT -- THAT A MESSAGE
WHICH AVOIDED ENDORSING RESULTS, BUT SPOKE OF OBJECTIVES
WHICH WE DEFINED, WOULD NOT LATER BE SEEN AS SUPPORTING
POSITIONS WE OPPOSE.

2. CONCERNING THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF YOUR CABLE,
I HOPE NONE OF US BELIEVES THAT WE CAN SOMEHOW CAUSE
THE YUGOSLAVS TO ENSURE -- NOR CAN THEY ENSURE -- A
DOCUMENT WHICH WILL NOT BE CRITICAL OF THE US
(ALTHOUGH WHY THAT MUST NECESSARILY "EMBARRASS THE
PRESIDENT" IS NOT, ON ITS FACE, CLEAR). THE DOCUMENT
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WILL CLEARLY SAY THINGS WE DO NOT LIKE, AND WILL
LIKELY BE LESS ATTRACTIVE THAN THE YUGOSLAV DRAFT NOW
CIRCULATING. BUT, IF THE MODERATES AT THE MEETING ARE
SEEN TO HAVE BLUNTED THE CUBAN ATTEMPT TO RADICALIZE
THE MOVEMENT -- AN OUTCOME WHICH SEEMS VERY POSSIBLE --
I WOULD THINK THIS WOULD MEAN MORE THAN INCLUSION OR

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EXCLUSION OF UNFRIENDLY LANGUAGE IN THE DOCUMENT.

3. IN ORDER TO MEET YOUR CONCERNS, HOWEVER, I WOULD SUGGEST INSERTION OF THE FOLLOWING IN MY SUGGESTED STATEMENT (REFTEL) AFTER THE SECOND SENTENCE. "THERE MAY BE NO SINGLE SET OF SOLUTIONS, AND WE MAY NOT ALWAYS BE ABLE TO AGREE ON THE ROUTE TO FOLLOW. HOWEVER, ... (PICK UP WITH "THE LONGING FOR A WORLD...").

4. IF A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT IS FORTHCOMING THAT FACT ALONE WILL ENCOURAGE THE GOY TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO ASSURE A MODERATE FINAL DOCUMENT (BUT UNDERSTAND, I USE "MODERATE" IN THE NAM CONTEXT, NOR OUR OWN). I ALSO, WHEN DELIVERING SUCH A MESSAGE, WOULD MAKE THE POINT IN MY OWN DELICATE FASHION.

5. IN SUM, I WILL NOT CUT OFF MY RIGHT ARM IF NO MESSAGE IS FORTHCOMING. BUT IT DOES SEEM TO ME WE WILL HAVE MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY -- THOUGH ADMITTEDLY NOT A RISK-FREE OPPORTUNITY -- TO HELP THE "MODERATES," DEMONSTRATE THAT THE USG HAS IN FACT CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD REAL REPEAT REAL NONALIGNMENT, AND PUT A LITTLE MONEY IN THE BANK WITH THE YUGOSLAVS. THE CRITICAL QUESTION, AFTER ALL, MUST BE WHETHER WE ARE UP TO DRAFTING A MESSAGE THAT ACCOMPLISHES WHAT WE WANT WITHOUT PUTTING THE PRESIDENT OUT ON A LIMB.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 19 jul 1978
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